

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 12-21 of the specification with the following replacement paragraph:

This patent application is a continuation of commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/468,620, filed December 21, 1999, which is a continuation of commonly owned U.S. Patent Application No. 08/839,771, filed April 15, 1997 (now U.S. patent No. 6,032,356), which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/558,332, filed November 15, 1995 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,829,128), which is a continuation-in-part of commonly-owned, ~~copending~~ U.S. Patent Application No. 08/452,255 (hereinafter "PARENT CASE"), filed 5/26/95 (~~status: pending~~) (now U.S. Patent No. 6,336,269), which is a continuation-in-part of commonly-owned, ~~copending~~ U.S. Patent Application No. 08/340,144 filed 11/15/94 (~~status: pending~~) and its counterpart PCT patent application number PCT/US94/13373 filed 11/16/94 (published 26 May 95 as WO 95/14314), both of which are continuations in part of commonly-owned, ~~copending~~ (now U.S. Patent No. 5,917,707), which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/152,812, filed 11/16/93 (~~status: pending/allowed~~) (now U.S. Patent No. 5,476,211).

~~This patent application~~ The aforementioned U.S. Patent Application No. 08/558,332 is also a continuation-in-part of commonly-owned, ~~copending~~ U.S. Patent Application No. 08/526,246, filed 9/21/95 (~~status: pending~~) (now abandoned), and of commonly-owned, copending U.S. Patent Application No. 08/533,584, filed 10/18/95 (~~status: pending~~) (now U.S. Patent No. 5,772,451), and of commonly-owned, ~~copending~~ U.S. Patent Application No. (~~docket 94-553-US~~) 08/554,902, filed 11/9/95 (now U.S. Patent No. 5,974,662).